

Glenn A. Black Laboratory of Archaeology

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT THE PADDY'S WEST
SUBSTATION NEAR NEW ALBANY, FLOYD COUNTY, INDIANA:
SUBSURFACE RECONNAISSANCE, SITE TESTING, AND DATA RECOVERY

Prepared for:
Louisville Gas and Electric Co.

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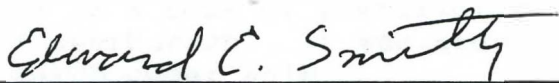
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Abstract

The Paddy's West Archaeological Site Complex (PWASC) consists of four archaeological sites (12F146, 47, 48, and 52) at the Paddy's West Electrical Substation located south of New Albany in Floyd County, Indiana. Three of these sites were discovered during borrowing activities associated with project construction; the fourth site (12F152) was discovered during a subsurface reconnaissance conducted at the proposed location of a power transmission tower south of the main facility. Sites of the PWASC were incorporated within and buried at variable depths beneath overbank alluvial deposits in the combined floodplains of the Ohio River and Middle Creek. The Complex lies between River Miles 612 and 613, approximately 0.48 km west of the present channel of the Ohio River. Archaeological field investigations were conducted at various intervals between August 1991 and April 1992. Laboratory analysis and report preparation continued into the Spring of 1993. These sites have yielded materials attributable to all recognized periods within the Archaic Tradition, the Early Woodland period, and the Euro-American Historic period.

Site 12F146 contains the remainder of several archaeological components in different topographic situations. It includes the remnant of a truncated shell midden dating to the Middle-Late Archaic period, a zone of Early Archaic features at the base of the truncated floodplain ridge, and outlying features. The shell midden component, exposed in both plan and profile, contains evidence of intensive aboriginal habitation and associated debris in stratified deposits up to 4 m in thickness. The Early Archaic component contains deposits up to 0.5 m in thickness that represent aboriginal habitation and industrial activities. An Historic period cistern dating to the early 20th century is also present at this site.

Site 12F147 had been heavily impacted by previous construction-related activities. Minimally, the site is represented by two features and a thin occupation level exposed in slit trenches and a vertical borrow profile, respectively. The cultural affiliation of these deposits is unclear.

Site 12F148 is represented by deposits up to 1.0 m in thickness attributable to the Terminal Archaic-Early Woodland periods. The site consists of a series of features of limited form and diversity, and with limited contents. The site appears to represent a specialized occupation locus rather than a general habitation area.

Site 12F152 is a zone of prehistoric cultural debris buried beneath 0.9 m of overburden. It was accessed by a single backhoe trench and one large auger hole.

Data derived from the PWASC provide insight into Archaic adaptations to the early and middle Holocene environments of the

lower Ohio River valley. Analysis indicates intensive exploitation of local biotic and lithic resources. This pattern of exploitation culminated in the Middle-Late Archaic period with the diverse biotic resources represented in the shell mound. Apart from a few diagnostic artifacts and the probable remnants of a Woodland component in a portion of 12F147, materials from later cultural periods were not present in the deposits remaining at Paddy's West when archaeological investigations commenced. Later deposits, if present, had been removed by previous construction-related activities.